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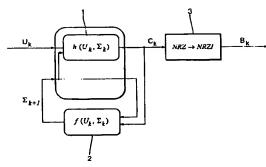
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METIIOD AND APPARATUS FOR MULTI-DIMENSIONALLY ENCODING AND DECODING



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of multi-dimensionally encoding a user data stream of user words into a channel data stream of channel words evolving in a one-dimensional direction of infinite extent. The invention relates further to a corresponding method of decoding. In order to implement certain two- or multi-dimensional coding constraints and coding geometries which lead to higher storage densities and improve the coding efficiency, a method of encoding is proposed wherein:- a user word is encoded into an NRZ channel word by selecting said NRZ channel word from a code table depending on said user word and the current state of an underlying finite-state-machine, wherein an NRZ channel word comprises a sequence of NRZ channel symbols of NRZ channel bits having a one-dimensional interpretation along said one-dimensional direction and wherein states of an underlying finite-state-machine describing the characteristics of the multi-dimensional code are defined by NRZI channel bits of the previous channel word and by NRZ channel symbols of the current channel word,- the NRZ channel symbols are transcoded into NRZI channel symbols by a one-dimensional 1T-precoding operation including an integration modulo 2, said 1T-precoding operation being carried out along said one-dimensional direction of infinite extent, and - said finite-state-machine is put into a new state selected from said code table depending on said user word and the current state of said finite-state-machine together with encoding a user word into a channel word.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT PCT/IB 03/01255 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G11B20/14 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G11B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to daim No. A WEEKS W: "Full-Surface Data Storage" 1,8, THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF 28-32 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IN THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA- CHAMPAIGN, XX, XX, 2000, page complete XP002227664 page 1, line 1 -page 99, last line page 3.2.4; figures 3.7-3.9 -/--X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: 'T' later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive stap when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Dale of the actual completion of the international search Date of malling of the international search report 15 July 2003 23/07/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Fijswffk Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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